

Patriarchal Blessings of my Grandparents

Given Jan. 18, 1856

Blessing of Joseph Smith McDonald son of James and Sarah McDonald.

Born Oct. 15, 1842 in Belfast Ireland.

Joseph in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I lay my hands upon your head and say let the spirit of the Eternal God rest upon thee. Thou art of seed of Abraham and of the lineage of Ephraim. Thou hast labored in thy youth in a great and glorious work. Thou shalt grow into the Principals of life and salvation and become a mighty man in Israel. The Lord is pleased with thee because thou hast embraced the new and Everlasting Covenant in thy youth and his watchful care has been over thee, and will continue to be over thee in as much as thou shalt keep his laws and commandments.

He has chosen thee for a wise and glorious purpose, and the name is enrolled in the Lamb's book of life, and in as much as thou art faithful thou shalt grow up as a sturdy oak by the rivers of waters and thou shalt be ordained to proclaim his name among the sons and daughters of men. Thy mother's watchful care shall be over thee and thy brothers and sisters shall give council in righteousness. The Holy Angels shall rejoice over thee by day and by night. The power shall fill the mind with light and intelligences of heaven. Thou shalt have power to pull down the strong of sin and Satan.

I seal upon thee the blessings of health and long life for thou shalt do much good in the church and kingdom. Thou shalt assist in redeeming the connections of the Mother and Father and assist in gathering all their seed to the latest generation. If thou wilt obey the council of the file leaders thou shalt be blessed with all thy blessings of the new and everlasting covenant and thou shalt rejoice with all thy connection in the kingdom of the God in case thou shalt prove faithful no blessings either spiritual or temporal shall be withheld from thee, I seal thee up unto eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Mary Melinda Jones McDonald

given by John Duke, Sept. 11, 1910

Dear Sister; According to your request I place my hands upon your head and by virtue and authority of the Holy Priesthood and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I pronounce and seal upon you a blessing that shall be a comfort unto you so long as you shall live upon the earth and through out all the endless ages of eternity. Thou art of Israel thru the loins of Ephraim and thou art entitled to all the blessings and privileges in the church of Christ. Thy feet shall stand in Holy places. The Lord is well pleased with your integrity. He has sent you here upon a grand Mission you were faithful in the other world during the rebellion and you did vote with your hand raised to the square that Jesus should be the Redeemer of the world. Thy name shall be handed down from generation to generation, you shall sit down with the honorable sisters of the kingdom.

Thy table shall be spread with the bounties of the earth, you shall be blessed with the blessings of heaven and the blessings of the earth and Satan shall not have power to destroy your usefulness from the earth for you shall live to finish the measure of your creation. I bless you with the blessings of health and strength and the blessings of long life, and you shall be blessed with every blessing that your heart desires in righteousness before the Lord.

You shall be a wise counselors to sisters where ever you reside, they shall seek your council far and wide.

These blessings are all yours in as much as you shall keep the commandments of the Lord and assist in the rolling forth of his purposes here upon the earth.

I seal you up to eternal life to come forth in the morning of the first Resurrection crowned with glory, immortality and Eternal life. Even So. Amen.

Joseph Smith McDonald

*Jos Smith
McDonald
Homestead
in
Daniels
877-8*

JOSEPH S. AND WIVES,
NANCY ELIZABETH CUM-
MINGS AND MARY M. JONES
McDONALD



Joseph S. McDonald was born in Belfast, Down County, Ireland on October 15, 1842, a son of James and Sarah Ferguson McDonald. Married Nancy Elizabeth Cummings in 1863. She was born in Gibson County, Tenn., a daughter of John and Rachel Kennedy Cummings. She died October 18, 1881. He then married Mary Melinda in 1883 a daughter of Elisha and Sarah Ann Cummings Jones of Heber. Joseph died February 15, 1930, and Mary died Dec 7, 1936.

Joseph S. McDonald's parents, of Scotch descent, were born and reared in Northern Ireland. Joseph was the seventh child in the family.

In 1841 the McDonalds were one of the first four families in their community to join The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After selling their possessions for \$200 in 1843 they came as immigrants to America with 250 other saints.

They joined the main body of the Church in Nauvoo, Ill., and lived there for two and a half years. After the martyrdom of the Prophet they were driven out of Nauvoo and moved to Bonepart, Iowa, and later to Kanesville, Iowa. The father and older boys worked diligently to support the family and also to get wagons, teams and provisions to cross the plains with the other saints.

In June of 1850 the family joined the Aaron Johnson Company and began their journey across the plains. Cholera broke out in the company and many lost their lives including James, June 17, 1850, just one week after the trek started. His wife Sarah, was filled with grief, but with assistance of kind friends she was able to bring her family to Salt Lake City, arriving there on September 12, 1850.

Sarah was advised by the leaders of the Church to settle her family in Mountainville (now Alpine) where feed was plentiful for their animals. The following spring they moved to Springville, where they lived until 1862. When Sarah moved to Heber, Wasatch County, during that year, Joseph and most of the family accompanied her. Here they took up land, built homes and became farmers and stockmen.

Joseph married Nancy Elizabeth Cummings in 1863. To this union was born the following children: Sarah Jane, Joseph Cummings, Rachel, James X, Mary Ann, John, Isaac David.

Nancy was a helpful companion to Joseph, and a cheerful, loving mother for their children. She died after an illness of eighteen months.

Joseph married Mary Melinda Jones in 1883. She was born March 23, 1863. They lived in Heber for a few years, then Joseph took up a homestead in Buysville and moved his family there in 1892, where he went into the sheep business.

Mary assumed the place of a second mother to her husband's children and also bore the following children, two of whom died in infancy: William, Nancy Elizabeth, Sarah Ann, Edna, Ina, Otto, Stella, Jennie, Hyrum, Gladys.

Joseph S. took into his home and cared for Chester Davis, Nels Peterson and Arthur Bartell, all orphan boys.

The family always took an active part in their community and Church affairs, which brought great happiness to all of them.

Joseph inherited many fine qualities from his parents, their Scotch thrift, ambition and a bit of Irish wit as well. He loved to entertain his family with stories of his early life, especially of his experiences as a soldier in the Black Hawk Indian War.

Mary was a patient, kind, humble woman and was loved by all. Hard work and many responsibilities were her daily companions. She was very devoted to the Gospel and had a burning testimony as evidence of her faith.

Though Mary and Joseph have long since died, their children love and revere their memories.



